



RACHEL CROTHERS
Author of "Our
Selves,"
Now at the LYRIC.

GIRLS NEED "BIG SISTERS"

Miss Rachel Crothers Urges the Help of Women in Solving Problem of Wayward Girls.

Miss Rachel Crothers, author of "Our Selves," the latest dramatic solution of the sex problem, says that loneliness and poverty is the reason for the first downfall of most of the young women in institutions.

"It is not that a girl can't live on \$3.50 a week," said Miss Crothers yesterday. "We know she can, because so many of them do it. Poverty is only indirectly the cause, inasmuch as it shuts a girl out from wholesome pleasures and the education which would teach her the price of yielding to her lover. Every girl craves affection. As they said in the play, 'You want some one to come home to.' The heads of reform institutions have all told me that almost invariably a girl's first fall comes about through her affections.

"It is a long road to the time when society will insist on decent housing for the poor, decent entertainments and wholesome occupations, so that girls will be healthily interested in something besides men. In the mean time, the thing women must do to help is to insist on high standards of morality in the men they know. Women can no longer be indifferent to this thing. It is just because women have shut their eyes that our penal institutions are such miserable things. They are cold and dreary because the public does not care enough to give money for decent buildings. Girls are shut up away from the real world, in horrible dull corridors, with no human joy or warmth to light their lives, no change from the dull routine except a dreary chapel service on Sunday. Of course, this kind of treatment does not strengthen them to meet real life when they are released. Real life has its dangers, but it is warm and lively and exciting. There is affection and laughter, and some one who cares! We must

strengthen the girls against temptation in its hardest form.

"The first definite step I believe women should take is the formation of an auxiliary board similar to the Big Sisters, in connection with our great reform institutions. Every girl who is released from the institutions should have an interested sympathetic woman to look out for her. It would do the woman just as much good as the girl, too.

"Yes, I believe thoroughly in the bringing of these matters to the public mind. Newspapers, magazines and moving pictures do excellent service, provided the subject is treated in the right way. The intellect must be appealed to without rousing the emotions.

"As for the teaching of these things to children, it must be done. The dangers of knowledge are so much less than the dangers of ignorance that the risk must be run. Morbid curiosity will not be aroused if the child has been taught to think of the 'facts of life' as the most natural and commonplace things. It is only the unknown that excites curiosity. Of course, the telling must be done in the right way—and there's the rub. If all parents were perfect! It is out of the question, however, to expect parents to fulfill their duty to their children, at least in the ignorant tenement classes, from which most of the trouble comes.

"I suggest that the city should employ carefully trained women for this service, just as it needs nurses to tell people how to treat tuberculosis and to feed babies. These women would have to be carefully selected and chosen for their tact and power of commanding respect. It would be an almost impossible task, with untold dangers, but a woman who understands and loves children could do it better than an overworked school teacher or an ignorant mother—and infinitely better than some other naughty little boy."

Another matter which was considered at the meeting yesterday was that of the reinstatement of certain teacher-mothers who had resigned rather than face trial. At the present time, according to members of the Board of Education, they cannot be reinstated unless their husbands have deserted them for a year or are mentally incapacitated.

"I am not in a position to give the names of any of the women who are to seek reinstatement," said Mrs. Hale, "but it is a fact that several of them will ask for it. At the present time there are provisions of the bylaws which discriminate against them. Our petition will call for the repeal of all laws discriminating against married women teachers."

The league, so Mrs. Hale said, was likewise taking up the matter of women who had passed the required examinations, been placed on the eligible list and then dropped because of marriage. As was told exclusively in The Tribune recently, there is a resolution before the committee on bylaws of the Board of Education to amend existing bylaws with the intent to eliminate a woman teacher from the system as soon as she marries. It was introduced by General George W. Wingate, and its sponsor thinks it will solve the teacher-mother problem.

Among the speakers at the mass meeting will be Professor Henry R. Mussey, Norman Hapgood, Dr. Henry Moskowitz, Dr. Ira S. Wile and Frederick C. Howe.

Six teacher-mothers resigned recently rather than face trial, and since January 1, 1913, a total of twelve have resigned.

The Public Education Association has presented to the Mayor a memorial signed by its president, Charles P. Howland, urging that appointments to the board, several of which are to be made by Mayor Kuhn in the near future, be based on the candidates' attitude toward certain broad policies that have come up recently for discussion and settlement in the board. In several instances, one of them the McKee bill case, it is asserted that the board has ignored this principle.

President Churchill and Commissioners Stratmann, McCafferty, Morrison and Wile, whose terms expire this year, are said to have supported the alleged obnoxious legislation.

Dr. Wile has been the leading exponent of the rights of the teacher-mothers.

On Thursday, at 14 Vesey street, by Henry Brady.

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WOMEN RENEW WAR ON EDUCATION BOARD

Civic Service League Plans Meeting and Monster Petition Against Discrimination.

WANTS BYLAWS AMENDED

Also Will Demand Reinstatement of Teacher-Mothers and Urge Mayor to Make Favorable Appointments.

On suspicion that the Board of Education is seriously considering adopting bylaws barring from the school system any woman teacher who marries, an executive meeting of the League for the Civic Service of Women was held yesterday afternoon to devise ways and means of combating such action.

Mrs. Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, Hale, president of the league, said a monster petition would be circulated at once protesting against such discrimination, and that at a meeting in Cooper Union on the night of November 24 resolutions would be adopted calling on the board to amend its bylaws so as to remove all existing discriminatory clauses against married women.

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THE AUCTION OFFERINGS

Many Tenements and Dwellings To Be Sold.

APARTMENTS ON THE LIST

Two Structures on Central Park West Corner Will Be Disposed Of.

A number of dwelling and tenement house properties are scheduled to be sold at auction in the Vesey street and the Bronx Exchange salesrooms this week. Some apartment house structures are also among the offerings, among these two seven story buildings at the northwest corner of Central Park West and 18th street, which will be sold by Bryan L. Kennelly on Wednesday.

A complete list of the offerings follows:

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